



The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

November 10, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



Texas legislators will be using the 2018 off-session year to [review](#) key areas of the state's workers' comp reforms.

The House Business and Industry Committee will study the use of compounds in the state's workers' comp system, the designated doctor program, and employer participation in the state's voluntary workers' comp program. The House Select Committee on Opioids has been tasked with reviewing the policies of the Division of Workers' Compensation, and other agencies, as they pertain to monitoring and preventing prescription drug abuse.



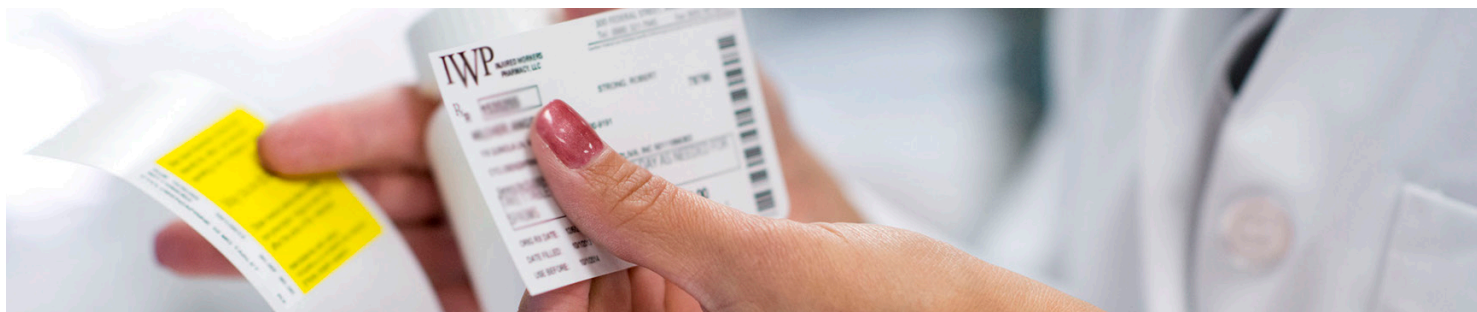
Florida legislators will once again consider a [bill](#) that would cap attorney fees at \$150 an hour.

In 2017, after a Supreme Court case removed the existing cap on attorney fees, the legislature considered a nearly identical bill. The bill never passed in 2017 and just two weeks ago legislators announced they would not tackle workers' comp reform in 2018 because of the double-digit rate decrease coming. The House Commerce Committee will discuss the proposed bill at their hearing next week.



Last week, the Division of Workers' Compensation issued an [order](#) adopting thirteen new medical treatment guidelines

for the state's Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS). The new MTUS becomes effective December 1, 2017 for all injuries on or after that date. All the newly adopted guidelines are taken directly from ACOEM and will serve as the basis for the state's new workers' comp drug formulary, effective January 1, 2018.



State of the States



The Industrial Commission of Arizona will be holding a public hearing to discuss expanding the use of the state's treatment guidelines. The state implemented ODG's medical treatment guidelines as they

related to the use of opioids and pain treatment in the fall of 2016. Now the ICA is looking to see if expanded use of ODG treatment guidelines will improve medical treatment for injured workers and increase efficiencies and cost effectiveness in the system.

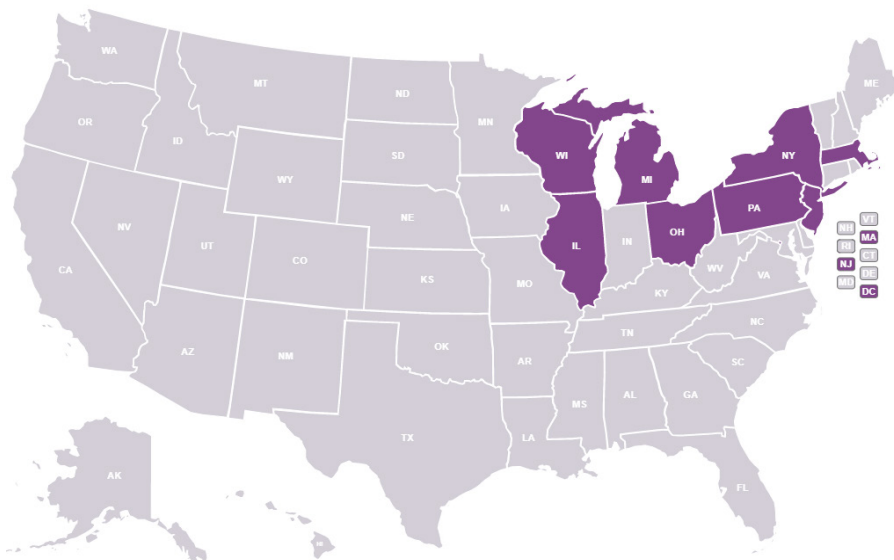
Article of Interest

A new study published in the Journal of American Medical Association finds that for the treatment of acute pain in hospital settings there is no difference in pain reduction between opioids and non-opioids.

States in Session

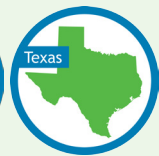
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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

Jayne will be in the home office. Danielle will be headed to Austin, TX for the Republican Governors Association Annual Meeting, then off to Phoenix, AZ for the National Conference of Insurance Legislators Fall meeting.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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